

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of processing an image of a face, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a two dimensional facial image, the facial image having been captured from a viewpoint; and

combining the two dimensional facial image and a standard three dimensional facial image to create a modified three dimensional facial image;

adjusting a pose an orientation of the modified three dimensional facial image with respect to the viewpoint; and

rendering a two dimensional image from the adjusted three-dimensional facial image.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the standard three dimensional facial image is generated by receiving a plurality of three dimensional facial images and combining the plurality of three dimensional facial images to generate the standard three dimensional facial image.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the combining step includes the steps of:

combining the two dimensional facial image and standard three dimensional facial image to create a first intermediate three dimensional facial image;

rendering a first intermediate two dimensional facial image based upon the first intermediate three dimensional facial image;

comparing the first intermediate two dimensional facial image to the two dimensional facial image; and

modifying the first intermediate three dimensional facial image based upon results of the comparison step.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the combining step of claim 1 further includes the step of repeating the rendering, comparing and modifying steps a plurality of times.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of: rendering a final two dimensional image from the three dimensional facial image according to a selected lighting.

8. (currently amended) A facial identification method comprising the steps of: receiving a two dimensional facial image, the facial image having been captured from a viewpoint; creating a three dimensional facial image from the two dimensional facial image; adjusting a pose an orientation of the three dimensional facial image with respect to the viewpoint; rendering an adjusted two dimensional facial image from the adjusted three dimensional facial image; and comparing the rendered two dimensional facial image to at least one stored two dimensional facial image to determine a match.

9. (original) The facial identification method of claim 8, wherein the comparing step includes:

comparing the rendered two dimensional image to a plurality of stored two dimensional facial images to determine a closest match.

10. (currently amended) The facial identification method of claim 8, wherein the step of creating a three dimensional facial image includes the step of combining the two dimensional facial image and a standard three dimensional facial image to create a modified three dimensional facial image.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The facial identification method of claim 4-10, wherein the step of creating the further comprising generating the standard three dimensional facial image includes the steps of: by receiving a plurality of three dimensional facial images; and combining the plurality of three dimensional facial images to create generate the standard three dimensional facial image.

13. (currently amended) A system for identifying an individual comprising:
a camera for acquiring a two dimensional facial image;
means for creating a three dimensional facial image from the two dimensional facial image;
means for adjusting a pose an orientation of the three dimensional facial image with respect to a viewpoint of the camera;
means for rendering a final two dimensional image from the adjusted three dimensional image; and
means for comparing the final two dimensional image to at least one stored two dimensional image to determine a match.

14. (original) The system for identifying an individual according to claim 13, further comprising:
a database of stored two dimensional images; and
wherein the means for comparing includes means for comparing the final two dimensional image to at least one stored two dimensional image in the database of stored two dimensional images.

15. (original) The system for identifying an individual according to claim 14, wherein the means for comparing includes means for comparing the final two dimensional image to a plurality of stored two dimensional images in the database to determine a closest match.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The system for identifying an individual according to claim 13, wherein the means for rendering includes means for rendering the final two dimensional facial image based upon a selected lighting.

18. (original) The system for identifying an individual according to claim 13, wherein the means for creating a three dimensional facial image includes:

means for combining the two dimensional facial image with a standard three dimensional facial image to create an intermediate three dimensional facial image; and

means for rendering an intermediate two dimensional facial image from the intermediate three dimensional facial image;

means for comparing the intermediate two dimensional facial image to the two dimensional facial image; and

means for adjusting the intermediate three dimensional facial image based upon results of the comparison of the intermediate two dimensional facial image to the two dimensional facial image.

19. (currently amended) A system for creating a three dimensional facial image of a face from a two dimensional facial image comprising:

a memory storing a standard three dimensional facial image of a face;

means for adjusting a pose an orientation of the standard three dimensional facial image of the face with respect to a viewpoint of the face; and

means for combining the two dimensional facial image and the adjusted standard three dimensional facial image of the face to create the three dimensional facial image of the face.

20. (currently amended) The system for creating a three dimensional facial image of a face from a two dimensional facial image according to claim 19, wherein the means for combining includes:

means for combining the two dimensional facial image with a the standard three dimensional facial image of the face to create an intermediate three dimensional facial image; and

means for rendering an intermediate two dimensional facial image from the intermediate three dimensional facial image;

means for comparing the intermediate two dimensional facial image to the two dimensional facial image; and

means for adjusting the intermediate three dimensional facial image based upon results of the comparison of the intermediate two dimensional facial image to the two dimensional facial image.